(e) whether recommendations of the Second Labour Commission were taken into account in this context and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the law is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Unemployed Youth

†289. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of uneducated, educated, trained unemployed youth including the youth having special qualifications at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed youth in the country in each of the above category on the basis of this survey; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not conducting such a survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) The number of uneducated (below 10th standard including illiterates) and educated (10th standard and above) job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as on 31st Dec, 1999 (latest available) was 1.2 crore and 2.9 crore respectively. Out of the educated job seekers, graduate & post graduate in Agriculture, Medicine, Engineering and Veterinary were 35.3, 46.6, 212.2 and 6.8 thousand respectively.

Bonded child labour in Indian Silk Industry

†290. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children as old as five years are being employed in Indian Silk Industry as bonded labour; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what effective steps Government are going to take to stop exploitation of child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) No specific case about children as old as five years being employed in the silk industry as bonded labour has been reported.

(b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed to the Schedule of the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Central Government and State/UT Governments have enforcement machineries to enforce child labour related provisions of the laws.

Government of India has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the Scheme of NCLP. Under the Scheme, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic districts for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

Government is committed to the goal of eradication of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour, beginning with children working in hazardous occuptions.

EPF arrears of textile mills workers

291. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge arrears of payment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dues remain to be paid to former workers of textile-mills closed down years back;

(b) if so, the State-wise break up of such dues, specifically with respect to closed textile mills of Solapur Division, such as Laxmi Vishnu Textile Mills, indicating the EPF arrears cleared since their closure; and